

DWIGHT'S AMERICAN MAGAZINE,

AND

FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

EDITED BY THEODORE DWIGHT,
Express Office, 112 Broadway.

PRICE 4 CENTS, SINGLE.
\$2 A YEAR IN ADVANCE.

VOL. III.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JANUARY 9, 1847.

No. 2.



THE BIRTH-PLACE OF COLUMBUS, AT COGOLETTO.

To an American traveller there is something peculiarly pleasing, in approaching Genoa from the south, by the old road along the coast. At least we often made this reflection, while on that route some years ago. The scenery varies from bold headlands, sometimes bare and sometimes covered with groves of the evergreen olive, to curving beaches, bordering, with their white bands, the heads of beautiful little coves, which lie between them. A new view opens at almost every step, or at least so often as to keep the eye continually on the stretch for another pleasing change; as the road, by turns, leads along the water's edge, up the steep ascent, and round the face of the precipitous bluff, or over a rounded summit, which looks out upon the Mediterranean quite to the horizon.

It is a very natural reflection, which almost forces itself upon the mind of the

traveller, that the inhabitants of such a region can hardly fail to become a nautical people.

In the streets of Gibraltar, and in one of the principal hotels, a peculiar dialect of the Italian language had early arrested our attention, and excited enquiries. It was neat, rapid and emphatic, with few traces of Roman effeminacy or Neapolitan indolence. The reply was that they were Genoese; and some personal acquaintance with a family of them, and a few of their friends, soon convinced us, that they retained traits of their ancestors. On viewing their country, we felt that the mystery was in part explained. Few shores probably offer more temptations to the young and the enterprising to launch upon the water; and we saw several groups as we passed along, paddling their boats, or drawing them up upon the sand, as if actuated by the rest-

less spirit which excited their fathers in the days of the Dorias.

What lamentable results have we to recal when that period of Genoese history comes to mind! But the memory recurred with greater pleasure to a later age, to a man, and an event connected with very different effects and associations. Along one of these graceful, curving beaches once strayed a child, whom Providence had destined to be the greatest of all discoverers. In one of these beautiful coves he tried his first adventurous steps upon that element which was to be the field of his exploits; these were the native shores, the early scenes of him to whom, in a sense, we owe our country. Everything in that attractive region seemed to us, as we travelled on, to speak of the early days of Columbus.

Many of our countrymen, no doubt, have found that part of their travels rendered doubly interesting, by associations of this kind: but few of them have been guided to the spot which is most intimately connected with the memory of that extraordinary man. In the little town of Cogoletto a house is still preserved as his birth-place; and that humble building is represented in our frontispiece. But how far superior it appears, in the eyes of an intelligent American, to the most spacious and magnificent edifices on the continent, our readers, we doubt not, will be more able to imagine, than we are to describe. To contemplate these humble walls, and in fancy to cast a view over our immense and splendid continent, with a recollection of its history, and an anticipation of its destiny, fill the heart with the emotions of a description no less exalting and improving than delightful. There is perhaps no spot in the world, where the feelings of an American so naturally extend over his whole continent, and claim a kind of brotherhood with the inhabitants of its various climes. A future anecdote will illustrate our meaning, and per-

haps may account for some of the feelings which we have long associated with the name of Cogoletto.

As we always design to make our pages a depository of some of the important statistics, dates, &c., relating to the subjects introduced into them, we add here some of the leading events of the Life of Columbus. He was born (in the humble building represented in our print) in Cogoletto, about the year 1435, and made his first voyage at the age of 14. On different occasions he was engaged in naval battles with the Mohammedans and Venetians.

He pursued for eighteen years his favorite project of making a voyage to the west, in search of the East Indies; and, though unsuccessful in various attempts to obtain assistance from different quarters, at length was furnished with three small vessels by Ferdinand and Isabella, of Spain, and sailed from the little port of Palos, (near the south-eastern extremity of that kingdom,) on the 3d of August, 1492. The first land was discovered in America on the 28th of October. It was an island, called by the natives Guanahani, and has commonly been supposed to be St. Salvador. From a paper read before the New York Historical Society this season, by Mr. Gibbs of the West Indies, it seems to have been Turk's Island.

Columbus sailed from Cadiz, on his second voyage to America, Sept. 25th, 1493, with seventeen vessels; and during his stay in America built the town of Isabella, on the island of Hispaniola. In 1496 he returned to Spain, with great treasures, and sailed in 1498 on his third voyage. He was sent home in chains, on false suspicion, and sailed on his fourth and last voyage, March 9th, 1502; and being shipwrecked, and encountering many difficulties, he returned to Spain, where he pined in disappointment until his death, which occurred at Valladolid, May 20th, 1506, aged 69.

Great Eruption of the Volcano of Kilauea in 1840.*Concluded from page 7.*

For three weeks this terrific river disgorged itself into the sea with little abatement. Multitudes of fishes were killed, and the waters of the ocean were heated for twenty miles along the coast. The breadth of the stream, where it fell into the sea, is about half a mile, but inland it varies from one to four or five miles in width, conforming itself, like a river, to the face of the country over which it flowed. Indeed, if you can imagine the Mississippi, converted into liquid fire, of the consistency of fused iron, and moving onward, sometimes rapidly, sometimes sluggishly; now widening into a sea, and anon rushing through a narrow defile, winding its way through mighty forests and ancient solitudes, you will get some idea of the spectacle here exhibited. The depth of the stream will probably vary from ten to two hundred feet, according to the inequalities of the surface over which it passed. During the flow, night was converted into day on all eastern Hawaii. The light rose and spread like the morning upon the mountains, and its glare was seen on the opposite side of the island. It was also distinctly visible for more than one hundred miles at sea; and at the distance of forty miles fine print could be read at midnight. The brilliancy of the light was like a blazing firmament, and the scene is said to have been one of unrivalled sublimity.

The whole course of the stream from Kilauea to the sea is about forty miles. Its mouth is about twenty-five miles from Hilo station. The ground over which it flowed descends at the rate of one hundred feet to the mile. The crust is now cooled, and may be traversed with care, though scalding steam, pungent gases and smoke are still emitted in many places.

In pursuing my way for nearly two days over this mighty smouldering mass, I was more and more impressed at every step with the wonderful scene. Hills had been melted down like wax; ravines and deep valleys had been filled; and majestic forests had disappeared like a feather in the flames. In some places the molten stream parted and flowed in separate channels for a considerable distance, and then re-uniting, formed islands of vari-

ous sizes, from one to fifty acres, with trees still standing, but seared and blighted by the intense heat. On the outer edges of the lava, where the stream was more shallow and the heat less vehement, and where of course the liquid mass cooled soonest, the trees were mowed down like grass before the scythe, and left charred, crisped, smouldering, and only half consumed. As the lava flowed around the trunks of large trees on the outskirts of the stream, the melted mass stiffened and consolidated before the trunk was consumed, and when this was effected, the top of the tree fell, and lay unconsumed on the crust, while the hole which marked the place of the trunk remains almost as smooth and perfect as the caliber of a cannon. These holes are innumerable, and I found them to measure from ten to forty feet deep, but as I remarked before, they are in the more shallow parts of the lava, the trees being entirely consumed where it was deeper. During the flow of this eruption, the great crater of Kilauea sunk about three hundred feet, and her fires became nearly extinct, one lake only, out of many, being left active in this mighty caldron. This, with other facts which have been named, demonstrates that the eruption was the disgorgement of the fires of Kilauea. The open lake in the old crater is at present intensely active, and the fires are increasing, as is evident from the glare visible at our station and from the testimony of visitors.

During the early part of the eruption, slight and repeated shocks of earthquake were felt, for several successive days, near the scene of action. These shocks were not noticed at Hilo.

Through the directing hand of a kind Providence no lives were lost, and but little property was consumed during this amazing flood of fiery ruin. The stream passed over an almost uninhabited desert. A few little hamlets were consumed, and a few plantations were destroyed; but the inhabitants, forewarned, fled and escaped. During the progress of the eruption some of the people in Puna spent most of their time in prayer and religious meetings, some flew in consternation from the face of the all-devouring element, others wandered along its margin, marking with idle curiosity its daily progress, while another class still coolly pursued their usual vocations, unawed by

the burning fury, as it rolled along within a mile of their doors. It was literally true that they ate, drank, bought, sold, planted, builded, apparently indifferent to the roar of consuming forests, the sight of devouring fire, the startling detonations, the hissing of escaping steam, the rending of the earth, the shivering and melting of gigantic rocks, the raging and dashing of the fiery waves, the bellowsings, the murmurings, the unearthly mutterings coming up from a burning deep. They went carelessly on amid the rain of ashes, sand, and fiery scintillations, gazing vacantly on the fearful and ever varying appearance of the atmosphere, murky, black, livid, blazing, the sudden rising of lofty pillars of flame, the upward curling of ten thousand columns of smoke, and their majestic roll in dense, dingy, lurid or parti-colored clouds. All these moving phenomena were regarded by them as the fall of a shower, or the running of a brook; while to others they were as the tokens of a burning world, the departing heavens, and a coming Judge.

I will just remark here, that while the stream was flowing, it might be approached within a few yards on the windward side, while at the leeward no one could live within the distance of many miles, on account of the smoke, the impregnation of the atmosphere with pungent and deadly gases, and the fiery showers which were constantly descending, and destroying all vegetable life. During the progress of the descending stream, it would often fall into some fissure, and forcing itself into apertures and under massive rocks, and even hillocks and extended plats of ground, and lifting them from their ancient beds, bear them with all their superincumbent mass of soil, trees, etc., on its viscous and livid bosom, like a raft on the water. When the fused mass was sluggish, it had a gory appearance like clotted blood, and when it was active, it resembled fresh and clotted blood mingled and thrown into violent agitation. Sometimes the flowing lava would find a subterranean gallery, diverging at right angles from the main channel, and pressing into it would flow off unobserved, till meeting with some obstruction in its dark passage, when, by its expansive force, it would raise the crust of the earth into a dome-like hill of fifteen or twenty feet in

height, and then bursting this shell, pour itself out in a fiery torrent around. A man who was standing at a considerable distance from the main stream, and intensely gazing on the absorbing scene before him, found himself suddenly raised to the height of ten or fifteen feet above the common level around him, and he had but just time to escape from his dangerous position, when the earth opened where he had stood, and a stream of fire gushed out.—*Letter by Mr. Coan.*

The Baboon and the Hottentot.

Many are the extraordinary anecdotes related of the baboon. One was told by Mr. Moffatt, of Koranna, who possessed a tame baboon, which, in common with all the monkey race, entertained an intense dread of snakes. Its master, from mere wantonness, forcibly entwined a dead snake round the baboon's neck, when the animal sat motionless for upwards of an hour, stupified with fear, and on the snake being removed, stole timidly into the hut of the Koranna. After a short lapse of time the baboon was, according to custom, called on by its master to scratch its head; but, although summoned several times in an angry voice, it refused to move. The Koranna rose and struck it with a stick, and immediately the enraged and aggrieved animal sprung upon him. The neighbors, hearing the scuffle, ran to see what was the matter, but could distinguish nothing through the dust raised in the hut except hot cinders, which were kicked about in all directions from a fire place in the centre of the abode. The screams of the man and the baboon were intermingled, till at length the latter dashed out through the bystanders and escaped to some mountains. The Koranna had been rather seriously bitten in the encounter, and was some weeks in recovering, but ultimately regained his strength, and, bent upon revenge, scoured the mountains in search of his antagonist. He at last descried his baboon, which he could discern from any other, peeping over a crag, and levelled a gun at him; but the animal instantly withdrew his head, and held forward one of his companions as a target instead of himself, chattering loudly as in defiance, so that the man was compelled to return foiled and disappointed.

[*Selected.*]

The Fox.*Concluded from page 10.*

"When living in Ross-shire, I went one morning in July before daybreak to endeavor to shoot a stag, who had been complained of very much by an adjoining farmer, as having done great damage to his crops. Just after it was daylight, I saw a large Fox come very quietly along the edge of the plantation in which I was concealed; he looked with great care over the turf wall into the field, and seemed to long very much to get hold of some hares that were feeding in it—but apparently knew that he had no chance of catching one by dint of running; after considering a short time, he seemed to have formed his plans, and having examined the different gaps in the wall by which the hares might be supposed to go in and out, he fixed upon the one that seemed the most frequented, and laid himself down close to it, in an attitude like a cat watching a mouse hole. Cunning as he was, he was too intent on his own hunting to be aware that I was within twenty yards of him with a loaded rifle, and able to watch every movement he made; I was much amused to see the fellow so completely outwitted, and kept my rifle ready to shoot him if he found me out and attempted to escape. In the meantime I watched all his plans: he first with great silence and care scraped a small hollow in the ground, throwing up the sand as a kind of screen between his hiding-place and the hares' meuse—every now and then, however, he stopped to listen, and sometimes to take a most cautious peep into the field; when he had done this, he laid himself down in a convenient posture for springing upon his prey, and remained perfectly motionless, with the exception of an occasional reconnoitre of the feeding hares. When the sun began to rise, they came one by one from the field to the cover of the plantation; three had already come in without passing by his ambush, one of them came within twenty yards of him, but he made no movement beyond crouching still more flatly to the ground—presently two came directly towards him; though he did not venture to look up, I saw, by an involuntary motion of his ears, that those quick organs had already warned him of their approach; the two hares came through the gap together, and the Fox springing with

the quickness of lightning caught one and killed her immediately; he then lifted up his booty and was carrying it off like a retriever, when my rifle ball stopped his course by passing through his back bone, and I went up and despatched him. After seeing this I never wondered again as to how a Fox could make a prey of animals much quicker than himself, and apparently quite as cunning."

*Wild Sports of the Highlands.***Electric Eels.**

One day, wishing to change the water in which our eels were kept, we upset the tub on the deck, and thus threw them out. Having replenished the vessel with fresh water, we requested one of the sailors to put them in. He proceeded to do so; but no sooner had he touched it with his hand, than he received a shock which caused him to drop it in a moment. He attempted it again but with no better success than before. Great was the amazement of his fellows, who all tried in turn to put the mysterious fish into the tub; but none succeeded. It was amusing to see their looks of wonder at the strange sensations which they had severally experienced. The mate looked on in silence and surprise; and being himself wholly unacquainted with the properties of the reptiles, he supposed the sailors dropped them more on account of their slipperiness than any other cause. On the strength of this opinion, he walked up boldly to the largest one, and in order to retain his grasp, seized him with great force; but the eel, little relishing such an assault, gave him so severe a shock that he "dropped him like a hot potato," nor could he be prevailed on to make a second trial. At length the captain procured a shovel and put them both in without any farther difficulty. The next day I observed one of the monkeys drinking from the tub; but having accidentally put his head down too far, his nose came in contact with one of the eels, by which he received a shock that made him beat a precipitous retreat. As soon, however, as he had somewhat recovered from its effect, he returned with vehement wrath depicted in his interesting countenance.—Having mounted himself upon the side of the tub, he brought the eel a severe thwack on the head with his paw.—*Knickerbocker.*

Biography of Fellenberg.

On the 21st of November, 1844, died in Switzerland, in the canton of Berne, one of the men who had contributed most to extend instruction among the common people. His whole life was devoted to this great object. He attracted the attention of philanthropists throughout the world. He even had Americans in the institute of Hofvyl, and his school for the poor is imitated in the United States.

Mr. de Fellenberg deserves then in all respects a biographical notice in our correspondence. Let us try to do honor to those who have well served the cause of mankind. Their example may excite a noble and generous emulation in the heart of those who love to attempt great things. Perhaps some one of your readers, while contemplating so active, so devoted a life as Mr. de Fellenberg's, will say to himself: 'I also will become, by the blessing of God, the benefactor of my kind!'

Emmanuel de Fellenberg, was born at Berne, in 1771, of a noble and very distinguished family. His relatives occupied eminent places in the state. His father was governor of Aargau, which was a dependency at that time of Berne. His mother did not belong to the Helvetic nation; she was the grand daughter of the illustrious Dutch admiral, Van Tromp. This woman was a model of mothers, she sought to awaken in the soul of her son a love of all that was elevated, and no doubt she contributed much to his intellectual and moral progress.

It is remarkable that in almost all my biographical notices of illustrious men, I meet with a wife, a mother endowed with high faculties; and this mother would seem to be the first and principal instrument of their celebrity; so true it is that mothers do more than fathers for the education of their children. Christian mothers, never forget this important truth! I will mention some examples of the instruction which Mrs. de Fellenberg gave her son. She said to him often: "The great and rich men of the world have friends enough; do you, my son, be the friend of the poor."

One day, young de Fellenberg saw his mother shedding tears. He inquired anxiously the cause of her grief. She at first refused to answer her son's questions, saying that he could not comprehend it; for he was then only eight years old. But he persisted; and Mrs. de Fellenberg, yielding to his urgency, told him that she wept

because the Americans had lost a battle against the English, and were in great distress. Then she explained to him, what was the war of independence, and kindled within him that enthusiasm for liberty which could never be extinguished.

At another time, Mrs. de Fellenberg led her son to visit an Insane Asylum. There she turned his attention to the sight of human misery; and seeing that the youth was moved with compassion, she said to him: "My child, promise God that you will be all your life long the support of the weak, the protector of the unhappy." Then, this worthy woman fell upon her knees, and begged earnestly that the Lord would grant her son strength to be faithful to his promise. Mr. de Fellenberg often related this fact, and even in his old age he never could mention it without strong emotion.

He resolved to devote his whole attention and efforts to the melioration of the poorer classes. When hardly sixteen years old, he ate only bread and some vegetables, and drank nothing but water, though he sat at sumptuous tables. This regimen gave him vigorous health. He dwelt retired, not associating with young men of the aristocracy who were dissipated and immoral. They laughed at him, but Mr. de Fellenberg paid no attention to their scoffs, and spent his time in making solid acquirements in learning.

Some years after, he began to travel, and visited Switzerland, France, Suabia, the Tyrol, all Germany. His mode of travelling was quite different from that of wealthy lords. He did not pass rapidly over countries in an elegant post-coach, observing nothing, interrogating nobody, and conversing only with men of his own rank. Mr. de Fellenberg went often on foot, with knapsack on his back, examining everything on his way. He seldom stopped in large cities, but in villages, and his intercourse was with peasants and laborers. He partook of their frugal repast and their toils, and studied their opinions, manners, customs, and prejudices. By this means he acquired a practical knowledge of the human character, which was of great service to him, at a later period, in effecting his philanthropic plans.

At this time, his religious opinions were not yet well established. He had adopted Kant's philosophy, and tried to practise his rigid maxims. Kant, as you know, was a Stoic of modern times; he laid down the principles of duty, or of the categorical im-

perative, to use his own expression. He had established this formula: "Act always so as you would wish all men to act in the same circumstances." His philosophy was elevated, pure, but dry and cold; it was addressed only to the head; the heart had no part in this system of morals. Mr. de Fellenberg became aware at a later period that the rigid theories of Kant are unsatisfactory, and that man has need of a living, real and compassionate God, the God announced in the Gospel; he felt that Christianity, with its realities, is essential to a good education, and to guide us to eternal life.

When Mr. de Fellenberg returned to his country, political events had taken a threatening turn. All the old institutions were shaken, the revolutionists of Switzerland, seconded in their designs by French demagogues, had raised the standard of insurrection. Mr. de Fellenberg was appointed commander of a district in the canton of Berne. Having met the revolted peasantry, he promised them a redress of their grievances, and these peasants returned quietly to their homes. But the government of Berne refused to make the least concession to the country people, after the victory. This denial of justice disgusted him with political office; he resigned, and returned to private life.

But when the French invaded Switzerland, in 1798, he resolved to defend, at the hazard of his life, the national independence. He traversed the mountains, haranguing his fellow citizens from village to village, and electrifying them by his vehement eloquence. The French, however, were victorious. Mr. de Fellenberg ran the greatest dangers: a price was set upon his head, and he made preparation to go and settle himself in America, when his friends interposed and had his proscription removed.

From this moment his resolution was formed. He abandoned forever his political career. In vain, his fellow citizens offered him repeatedly high offices: he refused them. His whole attention was turned to agriculture and the instruction of the people. He purchased, in 1799, the farm of Hofwyl, two leagues from Berne, for 250,000 francs, and there he passed the rest of his days.

This tract of land, which is now celebrated throughout the world, was then in a poor condition. The soil was covered with stones and weeds; some meagre cattle grazed in the neglected pastures; the

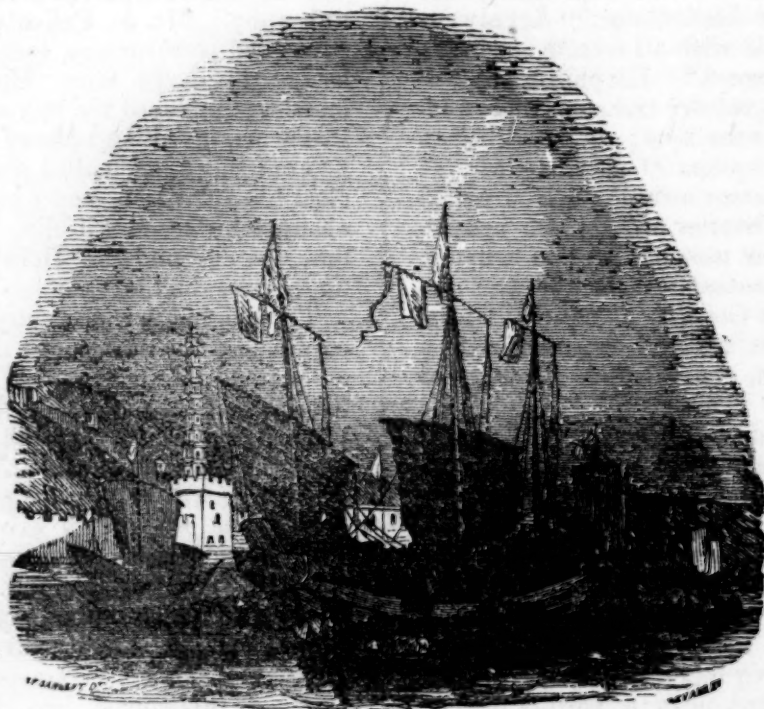
stagnant waters rendered a residence there unhealthy. Mr. de Fellenberg, with diligence and perseverance, soon gave a new face to this large farm. He drained the marshes, employed the best agricultural instruments, inventing some of them himself, he constructed one called the extirpator, to clear his fields from stones and roots. He changed his crops skilfully, and after some time, the ground at Hofwyl yielded ten times more than before.

The neighboring peasantry at first viewed with distrust and scorn the innovations of Mr. de Fellenberg. They predicted that he would soon be ruined; for, in all parts of the world, farmers adhere obstinately to their old habits, and believe that all change will be a means of impoverishment. But when they saw that Mr. de Fellenberg obtained abundant harvests, that his cattle were well fed, that his farm became every year more flourishing, they began to open their eyes, and adopted themselves some of his improvements.

Mr. de Fellenberg had, besides, every quality to gain their confidence. His manners were simple and frank, his countenance commanding, his conversation engaging; he had that physical strength which in the judgment of villagers, entitles to commendation. He did not resemble those gentlemen farmers, who are afraid to touch any instrument of labor, lest they should soil their clothes. Mr. de Fellenberg worked in the garb of a laborer; he shared the fatigues and hardships of his workmen; he was happy in a farmer's life, which he regarded as the noblest employment of the human faculties. Often distinguished visitors, who came to Hofwyl to see Mr. de Fellenberg, would meet him in his humble garb, and not recognizing him, would ask him to lead them to the owner of the farm. They were surprised to see reappear before them, in a few minutes after, with the polish of a noble patrician, the man whom they had taken for a simple laborer.

I will only add that the envious dared accuse Mr. de Fellenberg before the Swiss Diet! They said that the improved agricultural system of Mr. de Fellenberg would create an excess of production, and would bring so great abundance, that the people, not needing to labor, would live in idleness and vice, to the great damage of the state! Was ever such perverseness of judgment? Mr. de Fellenberg was far from abandoning his plans.

(To be Concluded.)



CHINESE SHIPS AND BOATS.

Before we commence our journals of foreign travels, which we promised our readers in our last number, let us direct our attention once more to those wonderful products of human skill, so indispensable to the very existence of voyagers. Few persons who have not paid particular attention to the subject are aware how much there is to admire in a vessel. Many who have sailed in them, no doubt, have been so inattentive as to overlook many of the evidences of ingenuity which they present on every side. Many a young traveller, however, on embarking for a foreign land, ardent for the sight of what is new and curious, has been surprised to find himself surrounded by wonders, in the vehicle which was to transport him.

Numerous arts and laborers must cooperate, or even a vessel of the smallest class cannot be constructed. It is a difficult thing so to form a frame, and fit the planks, that nothing shall be needed to keep out the water but a little oakum and pitch. But, beside this, regard must be had to the strength, capacity, rapidi-

ty of sailing and facility of steering. When masts and sails are added, in size, weight and position they must all be proportioned to the hull and to each other. Then there is a choice in the kinds of timber, the qualities of sails and cordage for every part; and in commercial countries all these, and other details, are well understood, by men engaged in the construction, the providing and management of vessels.

All these points, however, are not always regarded: even the most important of them are sometimes improperly and dangerously overlooked. A sad example has been recently exhibited, by the splendid steamboat *Atlantic*, which was lost on the 27th of November last, on Fisher's Island, at the east end of Long Island Sound. If she had been provided with anchors of proper size, they probably would not have dragged, and she would have rode out the gale, severe as it was; and if she had been built strong enough, she would not have gone to pieces on first striking the rocks, and more lives would have been saved.



A HERMIT.

This solitary, sad and moping figure may be taken as a very favorable specimen of the better class of hermits, whether dwelling in bona-fide hermitages, or in those mock seclusions bearing the name, and far more numerous in Italy, Spain, South America and some other parts of the world.

It has been our hap to meet with numbers of those pitiable beings; and the impressions we have received from looking at some and conversing with others in past years of travel, we now find, have prepared us doubly to enjoy and to value the blessings and enjoyments of the society, friends and home, among which God has placed us. We would that we might in some way impart to others the convictions which have been strongly pressed upon our mind, by the practical lessons derived from such poor dupes of superstition. A little knowledge of facts would dispel from the imaginations of

our romantic readers, (and such we are confident we have), some of those false ideas which, from books and other sources, have been extensively diffused.

Hermits are by no means all of one class. Many a fugitive from justice or persecution has assumed the garb and character for security; and others, to enjoy a name for sanctity, which, amidst a superstitious people, offers the highest temptations of influence to an ambitious man. The gifts which many hermits have received have amounted to large sums, and perhaps to estates; while their power, founded on the reverence of the surrounding population, has been great and available in different ways.

The highest character that we are allowed even to hope for in a hermit of the most sincere kind, is that of a person profoundly ignorant of God's word, and so imbued with false and subversive notions of Christianity, that he lives to

earn a claim to heaven by his own works; and, instead of "providing for his own, specially those of his own house, has denied the faith," and renouncing parents, children, or whatever relatives he may have, and thinks he pleases God by neglecting the very duties in the midst of which God has placed him.

Christian hermits, (so called), began it is said, in Egypt, where they soon ran to great extravagances, like the devotees of India. Some lived on the tops of rocks, and one on the summit of an ancient column. In Romish countries every city and almost every town and village has a hermitage, usually a neighboring eminence, to which the superstitious people make a pilgrimage on the birthday of the saint to whom it is dedicated, making large contributions of money, &c.

But we hardly know which way to turn, so many places of this kind, and so many recollections crowd upon us, as we write. We wish we could show our reader the "Lives of the Saints," the celebrated Jesuit work, "Acta Sanctorum," which abounds in accounts of fanatics of this class among others. An imperfect copy for sale in this city, not long since, presented a pile of thirty-six folios, each containing about 1200 pages of fine print. Not one of all that troop probably, or of the thousand or million of others who have adopted the style and title of hermit, was a reader of the Bible, or a promoter of public improvement, intellectual or religious: but most of them pretended to work miracles, and all lived like bloodsuckers on the people. We might rather say that these poor deluded and deluding creatures, with their army of associates, the monks, nuns, priests, Jesuits, &c., fix upon society like the fabulous Kraken, and sink it to the depths of darkness.

Rousseau tells us, that "persons who know little talk a great deal, while those who know a great deal say very little."
—*Art of Conversation.*

THE SERVANTS OF THE ATHENIANS.

There were two kinds of them. The one, who were free, and not able to get their bread by their work, were obliged by the bad state of their affairs to go into service; and their condition was easy, and not laborious. The service of the other was forced and unavoidable; these were slaves, who had either been taken prisoners in war, or bought of such as trafficked publicly in them. They constituted a part of the estate of their master, who disposed of them at pleasure, but generally treated them with great humanity. Demosthenes observes, in one of his harangues, that the condition of servants was infinitely more gentle in Athens than any where else. There was in that city an asylum and place of refuge for slaves, where the bones of Theseus had been interred; and that asylum subsisted in Plutarch's time. How glorious was it for Theseus, that his tomb should do that twelve hundred years after his death, which he had done himself during his life, and continue the protector of the oppressed, as he had been!

When the slaves were treated with too much rigor and inhumanity, they had their action against their masters, who were obliged to sell them to others, if the fact were sufficiently proved. They could ransom themselves even against their masters' consent, when they had laid up money enough for that purpose. For out of what they got by their labor, after having paid a certain proportion to their masters, they kept the remainder for themselves, and made a stock of it at their own disposal. Private persons, when they were satisfied with their services, often gave these slaves their liberty, when the necessity of the times obliged the state to arm and enlist them for war among the citizens.

The humane and equitable usage with which the Athenians treated their servants and slaves, was an effect of the good temper natural to that people, and very remote from the austere and cruel severity of the Lacedæmonians in regard to their Helots, which often brought their republic to the very brink of destruction. Plutarch, with great reason, condemns this rigour. He thinks it proper to habituate one's self always to mercy, even with regard to beasts, were it only to learn to treat them well.—*Hist.*

Secession of Germans in New York, from the Roman Catholic Church.—On Sunday afternoon, December 13th, fifty-four Germans, chiefly of the labouring class of society, formed themselves into a congregation, under the pastoral care of the Rev. Dr. Gustiniani, formerly of Rome, in Italy, and a Romish priest, and for some years past a protestant clergyman. The meeting was held in the Tabernacle, and the house was crowded. The exercises were very solemn and interesting.

Two young men, leading members of the society, mounted the platform, and presented Mr. G. a large Bible, expressing the wish of the people that he would teach them out of that book; to which he returned an appropriate and eloquent reply. He afterwards addressed the Germans in their own language, and then the spectators in English, read the articles of faith, which the congregation had agreed to, with the rules they had made for the regulation of their affairs. Their title is the German Catholic Church, and they claim, as fundamental, the free use of the Bible in their own language, and perfect religious liberty. Among their doctrines are those of the parity of the clergy, their total destitution of the right to compel or dictate, the right of the people to choose their own pastors, and other points equally essential with the principles and practice of the primitive church, which they take for their model. They do not call themselves Protestants; and thus they avoid all unnecessary objections to which the name might expose them, among their prejudiced countrymen and others.

Some of the arguments and facts presented to the meeting by Dr. Giustiniani were of an interesting and forcible character. While arguing against the celibacy of the clergy he cited the text: "And Peter's wife's mother lay sick of a fever." "My dear brethren," said he, "while Rome pretends that it is a heinous

sin for a priest to marry, remember, that the Apostle Peter, from whom Rome pretends to derive her whole authority, had a wife's mother; and of course he must have had a wife."

Bishop Hughes, the Roman Catholic bishop of New York, has published a letter, saying that the members of the new congregation did not belong to any of the Catholic Churches here, &c. &c. without touching the great points in the case, and without denying that various unjustifiable and high-handed attempts have been made to prevent the Germans from taking this step.

The Reformer Ronge began with only about twenty-one followers, and Czierski with but eighteen; while Luther came out against Rome alone, and has left behind far more substantial, extensive and valuable effects than either of them.

The Scientific and Literary Societies of New York.

Several of the scientific and literary societies in this city have risen, within a few years to a rank before unknown in this country, both in numbers of members and in activity. Among these the Historical Society holds a conspicuous place. It includes several hundreds of our most intelligent citizens, and its monthly meetings, which are held through a great part of the year, are attended by large numbers, from sixty to two hundred. The officers, with the venerable President, Hon. Albert Gallatin, at their head, form a capable and faithful band, qualified to give respectability, energy and success to so worthy an enterprise, even under circumstances, and in a community less favorable than our own. In the course of four or five past years the accumulation of valuable historical matter has been great, and it is annually increasing, in the various departments of the library, the essays communicated, and the correspondence carried on abroad and at home. The Lyce-

um of Natural History, the American Institute, and recently the Ethnological and the Agricultural Societies, are actively and constantly engaged in labors interesting to the people. The public should be more intimately acquainted with the results of the studies, and enquiries thus carried on, by men devoted to the collection of valuable truths, important, as well as interesting to every intelligent mind.

In attempting to introduce so extensive and various a subject to our readers, however, great difficulties occur at the outset. General views cannot be given, either with justice, or with due effect. Particular topics must be taken up, and brought before the mind in some detail; but the difficulty of selection is great: for the amount of valuable and interesting facts, opinions and arguments is so great, that we must necessarily omit more than we can find room for.

Lectures on Ancient Egypt.

Mr. Gliddon has commenced a course of Lectures on Ancient Egypt in this city, at the request of the Historical Society. We have heretofore given several notices of his previous courses, and expect to afford our readers some further gratification in future, by such accounts as we may find room for. He has recently returned from a visit of several months to Europe, during which he has obtained, from the various Egyptian students of different countries, information concerning their latest discoveries and present opinions, with numerous copies of paintings and inscriptions from the ancient temples, specimens of objects found in the catacombs, &c., a portion of which completely covered the walls of the hall.

Mr. Gliddon has had a long personal acquaintance with Egypt, having resided at Alexandria and Cairo from the age of nine, until past thirty, a large part of the time as Consul for the United States.

The published journals and private letters of many travellers, bear witness to the courtesy and assistance afforded by him. He has passed many times over the country between the sea-coast and the second cataract, and visited the numerous sites and ruins, often in company with some of the distinguished travellers of Europe. About four years ago he began to communicate to our countrymen, in popular lectures, that kind of information which intelligent people most desire to obtain, respecting the antiquities of Egypt, the means taken to decipher and interpret them, and the numerous and interesting results. Several European journals, have expressed astonishment and gratification at his success among our countrymen, as the attempt to collect a popular audience to listen to a course of lectures on such a subject has never been made, even in Paris or London, and would probably fail in either.

One point in which Mr. Gliddon made his introductory lecture highly interesting, was the successful labors of some of the archæologists within a year or two; particularly in the explaining and comparing of the Royal Chamber of Karnac, and the Papyrus manuscript deposited at Turin, with the aid of the tablet of Abydos, long known as the Rosetta stone. Copies of these records, in their mutilated condition, afforded striking evidence of the patient labor, as well as of the learning, skill and ingenuity, displayed by Lepsius and Bunsen. The papyrus was in numerous small fragments, about an inch square, which, arranged by Lepsius, appear as spotted as a chess-board. At the first glance a person might pronounce it a preposterous thing to pretend to arrange such shreds and patches: but many of the drawings and hieroglyphics with correspond those in the Chamber of Karnac, and with the Rosetta stone: while each affords satisfactory means for supplying some of the deficiencies in the others.



THE ANTS.

Their nests contain three kinds of individuals—males; females, which have wings; and neuters, which are destitute of these appendages.

"In the warm days which occur from the end of July to the beginning of September, and sometimes later, the habitations of the various species of ants may be seen swarming with winged insects; these are the males and females, preparing to quit forever the scene of their nativity and education. Everything is in motion; and the silver wings, contrasted with the jet bodies which compose the animated mass, add a degree of splendor to the interesting scene. The bustle increases, till at length the males rise, as it were, by general impulse into the air, and the females accompany them: the whole swarm alternately rises and falls with a slow movement, to the height of about ten feet; the males flying obliquely with a rapid zigzag motion, and the females, though following the general movement of the column, appearing suspended in the air, like balloons; and having their heads turned towards the wind."

"The greater portion of the males, speedily perishing, become the food of birds or of fish. So numerous are they, that Dr. Bromley says they formed a column on the water where they had fallen, five or six miles long, eight or ten feet broad, and six inches deep.

"The females which escape are destined to found new colonies, and at first to do all the work of neuters; in this particular resembling the mother wasp: but prior to their constructing a new habitation, they make themselves voluntary prisoners, by throwing off their wings. So extraordinary a dismemberment requires to be supported by the testimony of an eye-witness.

"Accordingly, Huber, who made the experiment, states, "that having induced an ant to mount a straw, he placed it on a table sprinkled with a little earth, and covered it with a glass bell; scarcely did

she perceive the earth which covered the bottom of her abode, when she extended her wings, with some effort bringing them before her head, crossing them in every direction, throwing them from side to side, and producing so many singular contortions, that her four wings fell off at the same moment, in his presence. After this change, she reposed, brushed her corslet, traversed the ground, evidently seeking a place of shelter; she partook of the honey he gave her, and at last found a hiding-place under some loose earth."

Huber might well be astonished at the coolness with which the female ant appeared to throw off her wings: one would have thought that as much proportionate suffering would have been felt in her tiny frame from the loss of these members, as in ours from the amputation of all our limbs; but insects in general do not appear to be sensible of much pain. A wasp will walk about and even eat after its body has been cut into two, and a dragon fly will voraciously devour its prey after the removal of its abdomen.

"Having cast off her wings, the female begins to prepare a habitation for herself. In some cases, however, the workers do not allow all the females to quit the old nest; but detaining some of those, clip their wings and keep them close prisoners so long, that at last they become reconciled to their fate. A single ant is appointed to watch her motions and supply her wants; no Argus appears to be more vigilant. These sentinels are constantly relieved. As soon as an egg is deposited, the female becomes the object of the tender care of the neuters. A court, composed of from ten to fifteen individuals, says Huber, continually follows her; she is unceasingly the object of their care and caresses; all are eager to collect around her, offer her nourishment, and assist her with their mandibles in making her way through difficult and ascending passages.

THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

Dr. Steven's Essay on Evaporation and Capillary Attraction, as affecting the Nutrition of Plants.

A very interesting paper was read by Dr. Alexander H. Stevens a few weeks ago, before the American Agricultural Association. His views appeared to us original, as well as important; and, although some points were touched upon, which, at first view, seemed somewhat paradoxical, the explanations were highly satisfactory as well as ingenious.

The essay first adverted to some familiar evidences of the power of capillary attraction. A wall on Dr. Stevens grounds at Astoria, draws up moisture from the earth, and with it the salts which it holds in solution, as they are found efflorescing on its surface twelve feet from the ground.

It is supposed by many persons, and it appears to be the opinion of some respectable writers on Agricultural Chemistry, that rains perform only the process of leeching, upon soils which contain soluble salts, whether received from manures or otherwise. But a moment's attention to the necessary effects of capillary attraction will discover, that the soluble salts which have been carried down by the leeching process of rain, must be brought up again by the water which is drawn up, during a drought, by the capillary attraction of the dried surface. But Dr. Stevens presented other effects of this important agricultural agent.

In long droughts, the moisture is drawn from an unusual depth; and then salts of peculiar value, or in extraordinary quantity, may be supplied. Manure may be drawn away from the plants to which it is supplied, if in a fluid form, or accompanied by watering, as the adjacent, drier earth will naturally draw off the moisture, and with it the salts it contains. Thus many a rare plant has

doubtless been lost, and many an interesting experiment failed. The growth of weeds is often promoted around the spot; and these must increase the evil. By a regard to capillary attraction, we may also account for the tendency of roots to extend towards a supply of nutriment in the soil, on whatever side of them it may be. The water coming from it brings a rich supply of dissolved salts, which strengthens the nearest roots, and promote their growth; and, as their power of suction or absorption constantly increases with their growth, and receives more and more assistance from capillary attraction, as long as the supply continues, the extension of roots also must increase. This view seems to set aside every necessity for attributing anything like intelligence to the vegetable tribes in seeking their food, to which some writers have inclined.

The alternate operations of watering and evaporation keep the nutriment of plants in a state of endless motion, downwards, upwards and sideways; and Dr. S. tells us, that stagnation is fatal to vegetation. Evaporation takes place very rapidly through the sides of a common porous flower-pot, and there the little fibrous roots of a potted plant multiply, and often extend in a thick net work. Gardeners understand the importance of this operation, in practice at least: for they place cuttings in thumb-pots, of about the size of a wine-glass, and change them to those but little larger, by which they take full advantage of this principle.

The essay concluded by a pleasing allusion to the provision made by the Creator, to secure even to the poorest and most solitary and helpless of the vegetable train, a supply of necessary food, by a silent and secret subterranean operation of nature: an interesting and important branch of her movements, hitherto but little appreciated or much observed.

Lessons in Grammar.

Rule.—When a suffix beginning with a vowel is to be added to a root, ending in *e* mute, omit the *e*: *create, creation, creating*; *please, pleasant, pleasure*. Find ten other words ending in *e* mute, and add a suffix to each.

Exercises.—Add to each of the following roots the suffixes of the present participle, and a noun: *provoke, congregate*; *reciprocate*.

When the root does not end with *e* mute, what are the rule and the exceptions?

To guard against the misuse of the verbs *lie* and *lay*.

Lay is a transitive verb. The action passes to an object: as I (now) *lay* a book on the table now; I (now) *lay* myself upon the bed.

Lie, (to lie down) is an intransitive verb: the action does not pass from the agent. It means the same as to lay one's self down.

It is proper to say *I lie down*, and *I lay me down*, or *I lay myself down*. All these are in the present tense.

But there is danger of confounding these words, because the present tense of *to lay* is the same as the imperfect tense of *to lie*. Many persons therefore use the words *I lay down* for the present tense, and *to lay down*, for the infinitive mood, when they should say *I lie down*, and *to lie down*.

Exercise.—Repeat (or write down), the conjugation of the transitive verb, *to lay*. Then that of the intransitive verb, *to lie*. Speak (or write) ten sentences, each containing one of those verbs.

Questions.—What mistakes are sometimes made in the use of the verb *to lie*? What leads to such mistakes?

There is another verb, *to lie*, which means to say what is not true. It is conjugated thus:

Infinitive, *to lie*; imperfect tense and perfect participle, *lied*.

New Publications.—The Hasty Pudding, a Poem in three Cantos, written at Chambéry in Savoy, January, 1793, by Joel Barlow, Minister Plenipotentiary to France; with a memoir on the Maize or Indian Corn, compiled by D. J. Brown, under the direction of the American Institute."

This lively little poem, the memory of which is associated with a very interesting period of our history, it is agreeable to see reappearing. The collection of facts and opinions respecting our American grain, the Zea Maize, we look upon with particular interest. We announced this compilation by Mr. Browne several weeks ago, and we shall hereafter present some extracts to our readers.

RECEIPTS.

Plain Fritters.—Beat seven eggs very light, and stir them gradually into a pint of milk; add by degrees, 3-4 of a pound, or 1-2 pint of sifted flour. Beat the whole very hard. Have ready, in a frying pan over the fire, a large quantity of lard. When the lard has come to a hard boil, begin to put in the fritters, allowing to each about a gill of batter, or half a large tea-cup full. They do not require turning, and will be done in a few minutes. They may be eaten with powdered cinnamon and sugar.—*Miss Leslie*.

APPLE FRITTERS.—Pare, core and par-boil (in a very little water,) some large juicy apples. When half done take them out, drain and mince them very fine. Make a batter according to the preceding receipt, adding some lemon juice and grated lemon peel. Stir into the batter a sufficient quantity of the minced apple to make it very thick. Then fry the fritters in hot lard, as before directed. Eat them with nutmeg and sugar.—*Ib.*

BREAD-MAKING.—It has been said that no civilised nation exists, in which so much ill-made bread is consumed as our own. It is unquestionably true, that vast quantities of flour and meal are ruined in the preparation, and that proper care might remedy the evil, to a great extent, in a single generation, and bring about an important improvement in a single year. With these views we have published several receipts for making bread of different kinds, and may continue to notice the subject hereafter.

POETRY.

The Family Circle.

BY MISS FANNY FORESTER.

Give me my old seat, mother,
 With my head upon thy knee;
 I've passed through many a changing scene,
 Since thus I sat by thee.
 Oh! let me look into thine eyes—
 Their meek, soft, loving light
 Falls, like a gleam of holiness,
 Upon my heart, to-night.

I've not been long away, mother;
 Few suns have rose and set
 Since last the tear-drop on thy cheek
 My lips in kisses met.
 'Tis but a little time, I know,
 But very long it seems;
 Though every night I came to thee,
 Dear mother, in my dreams.

The world has kindly dealt, mother,
 By the child thou lov'st so well;
 Thy prayers have circled round her path;
 And 'twas their holy spell
 Which made that path so pearly bright;
 Which strewed the roses there;
 Which gave the light, and cast the balm
 On every breath of air.

I bear a happy heart, mother;
 A happier never beat;
 And, even now, new buds of hope
 Are bursting at my feet.
 Oh! mother! life may be a dream;
 But if such dreams are given,
 While at the portals thus we stand,
 What are the truths of Heaven!

I bear a happy heart, mother;
 Yet, when fond eyes I see,
 And hear soft tones and winning words,
 I ever think of thee.
 And then, the tear my spirit weeps
 Unbidden fills my eye;
 And, like a homeless dove, I long
 Unto thy breast to fly.

Then, I am very sad, mother,
 I'm very sad and lone;
 Oh! there's no heart whose inmost fold
 Ope to me like thy own!
 Though sunny smiles wreath the blooming lips,
 While love-tones meet my ear;
 My mother, one fond glance of thine
 Were thousand times more dear.

Then with a closer clasp, mother,
 Now hold me to thy heart;
 I'd feel it beating 'gainst my own,
 Once more, before we part.
 And, mother, to this love-lit spot,
 When I am far away,
 Come oft—too oft thou canst not come—
 And for thy darling pray.

ENIGMA.—No. 29.

I am composed of 16 letters.

My 1, 2, 11, 10, 14, 16, is a town of Venezuela.

My 2, 7, 12, 13, is one of the Shetland Islands.

My 3, 8, 15, is an island in the Irish sea.

My 4, 14, 7, 13, 11, 15, 8, is a town in Ireland.

My 5, 12, 1, 14, 3, 4, 11, 8, is a county in Florida.

My 6, 11, 16, 5, 14, 2, is a lake in British America.

My 7, 5, 15, 14, is a river in Asia.

My 8, 6, 9, 14, is a town in the Lybian Desert.

My 7, 2, 4, 11, 8, is a country of Africa.

My 10, 2, 15, 14, is a river in Russia.

My 11, 6, 5, 13, 8, 15, 10, is an island on the Eastern Continent.

My 12, 8, 15, 11, 13, 14, 1, is a county in Michigan.

My 13, 11, 3, 15, is a town in South America.

My 14, 6, 14, 13, is a sea in Asia.

My 15, 8, 11, 7, is a town in British America.

My 16, 14, 15, is a river in Virginia.

My whole is an Island in North America.

M. F. ZUTWILER.

Solution of Enigma No. 26, Vol. III. p. 16.
 —Tin, Vine, Love, Luther, Roe, Tea (or) T.
 —The Revolution.

BY A YOUNG LADY.

To Agents.—It is believed that no other work offers greater encouragements to Agents than the American Magazine under the new arrangement.

Monthly parts in handsome covers, 18 3-4 cents. All back numbers are kept on hand.

Vol. II., in muslin or half-binding, \$2.50.

An Agent is wanted in every district in the United States.

THE AMERICAN MAGAZINE. AND FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

With numerous Engravings.

Edited by Theodore Dwight.

Is published weekly, at the office of the New York Express, No. 112 Broadway, at 4 cents a number, or, to subscribers paying in advance, \$2 a year. 7 sets for \$10.

Postmasters are authorized to remit money, and are requested to act as agents.

Enclose a Two Dollar Bill, without payment of postage, and the work will be sent for the year.

"The information contained in this work is worth more than silver."—*N. Y. Observer.*

"It should be in every family in the country."—*N. Y. Baptist Recorder.*